ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The error rate of a pronunciation guesser that guesses
the phonetic spelling of words used in speech recognition
is improved by causing its training to weigh letter-to-
phoneme mappings used as data in such training as a
function of the frequency of the words in which such
mappings occur. Preferably the ratio of the weight to word
frequency increases as word frequencies decreases.
Acoustic phoneme models for use in speech recognition with
phonetic spellings generated by a pronunciation guesser
that makes errors are trained against word models whose
phonetic spellings have been generated by a pronunciation
guesser that makes similar errors. As a result, the
acoustic models represent blends of phoneme sounds that
reflect the spelling errors made by the pronunciation
guessers. Speech recognition enabled systems are made by
storing in them both a pronunciation guesser and a
corresponding set of such blended acoustic models.